

IN THE CLAIMS:

## Claim 1 (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

said container body has a substantially circular cross-section.

3. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

said cavity is essentially prismatic and has an essentially rectangular cross-section;

a cylindrical connecting part for filling projects from said container body.

4. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall also forms a wall of the container body.

5. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall is formed by a flat laminar zone projecting from said container body.

6. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein;

said indicia wall is formed by a flat laminar zone developed as an extension of a wall of said cavity parallel to a direction of said detection rays of an optical analyzing system.

7. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein:

said laminar zone extends symmetrically on opposite sides of said cavity, said cavity having a substantially prismatic shape.

8. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein:

longitudinal edges of said laminar zone and an additional projection located at a distance from said edges define a volume of the test tube contained and centered in a cylindrical housing.

9. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein:

said additional projection is longitudinal and is developed along a plane of symmetry perpendicular to said laminar zone.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall projects tangentially from the cylindrical container body.

13. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein:

said indicia wall projects on opposite sides of the cylindrical body.

14. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:

two of said indicia walls are provided on said container body and are substantially

parallel and spaced from one another.

15. (Previously presented) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein:  
said container body has an essentially prismatic shape and a rectangular cross-section;  
a bar code is applied onto at least one of the walls substantially parallel to the detection  
rays.

Claims 16 - 18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A test tube apparatus comprising:  
a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container  
body having a longitudinal axis and two substantially flat and parallel opposite walls extending  
along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for  
passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity;  
an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said  
container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the  
detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information.

20. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:  
said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel with said  
longitudinal axis of said container body.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:  
said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel to the detection rays.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:  
said indicia wall is non-intersecting of the detection rays, and said indicia wall is in a plane substantially parallel with said longitudinal axis of said container body, said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel to the detection rays.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 20, wherein:  
said substantially flat surface has a width larger than a distance between said opposite walls.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:  
said container body and said indicia wall form longitudinal edges for centering and supporting said container body in a seat.

26. (Canceled)

27. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said  
5 opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity;

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the  
10 detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information, said indicia wall being formed by a flat laminar zone projecting from said container body, said flat laminar zone having a longitudinal edge arranged substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said container body and arranged adjacent to said container body.

28. (New) The apparatus in accordance with claim 5, wherein:

said flat laminar zone has a longitudinal edge arranged substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said container body and arranged adjacent to said container body.

29. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and two substantially flat and parallel opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing  
5 detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity;

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information;

a cylindrical connecting part for filling said cavity projects from said container body.

30. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity, said cavity being essentially prismatic and having an essentially rectangular cross-section;

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information; and

a cylindrical connecting part for filling projecting from said container body.

31. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity;

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said

container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information, said indicia wall also forming a wall of the container body.

32. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity; and

two indicia walls connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said two indicia walls being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia walls being receivable of optically readable information, said two indicia walls being provided on said container body and being substantially parallel and spaced from one another.

33. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity, said container body having an essentially prismatic shape and a rectangular cross-section;

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information; and

a bar code applied onto at least one of the walls substantially parallel to the detection rays.

34. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity; and

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information, said indicia wall being formed by a flat laminar zone developed as an extension of a wall of said cavity, said laminar zone extending symmetrically on opposite sides of said cavity, said cavity having a substantially prismatic shape.

35. (New) A test tube apparatus comprising:

a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said longitudinal axis, said



opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing detection rays through said  
5 opposite walls and through said cavity, and

an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along said  
container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the  
detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information, said indicia  
wall being formed by a flat laminar zone developed as an extension of a wall of said cavity,  
10 longitudinal edges of said laminar zone and an additional projection located at a distance from  
said edges defining a volume of the test tube contained and centered in a cylindrical housing.

